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(*d*) The question of granting gratuity to the permanent staff of other departments employed in the project does not arise as they will revert to their original departments. Temporary employees are not eligible for any gratuity under the Civil Service Regulation.

Local Self-Government

Panchayats in the Province.

* 762 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of panchayats now existing in each of the districts of this Province; and

(*b*) the number of panchayats started last year in each district and the number of panchayats abolished last year?

A.—Statements [a] giving the particulars are appended.

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—"The statement shows that 386 panchayats were constituted and 212 were abolished last year. May I ask whether an equally large number of panchayats are abolished every year and, if so, for what reasons?"

The Hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"The power of abolishing non-union panchayats has been delegated to the Inspector and I do not think I will be able to give the reasons why they have been abolished in each case. Every year some panchayats are abolished because they are found to be working unsatisfactorily."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—"May I take it that all the existing panchayats are active ones?"

The Hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"They are not dormant."

Agriculture

Measures for improving the rice trade in the Province.

* 763 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state what measures are under the consideration of the Government for helping rice trade in this Province?

A.—The measures taken or under consideration have already been explained to the Council by the Hon. the Revenue Member in his speech on the debate on the resolution for land revenue remission on 31st January 1934. They are repeated below:—

(i) The Local Government have urged on the Government of India the necessity for either the total prohibition of import of, or the imposition of prohibitive duties on, foreign rice in the interests of the rice-producing Provinces;

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[a] Printed as Appendix III on page 86 infra.

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(ii) at the instance of this Government, the Government of India have thrown open the Tranquebar Port for ocean traffic with a view to facilitating the export of rice;

(iii) the Government of India have been addressed for taking steps to give preference in Ceylon market for Indian rice;

(iv) at the instance of this Government the South Indian Railway Company has reduced by approximately 16 per cent with effect from 10th April 1933 the freight rates for rice from certain railway stations in the districts of Tanjore and South Arcot in order to encourage the despatch of rice from those places to Colombo and the company has also quoted certain reduced railway rates for distances over 176 and up to 400 miles from 1st June 1933 to stimulate the movement of Tanjore rice and paddy to inland stations;

(v) the Government have addressed the Residency at Hyderabad to move His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Government to get the rate of the import duty on rice reduced to the limit of 5 per cent *ad valorem*;

(vi) the question of addressing the Government of India regarding the removal or reduction of import duty on rice in Malaya is being considered;

(vii) a Special Officer has been appointed to examine the conditions of the marketing of rice and making recommendations in the matter; and

(viii) a proposal is under consideration to appoint a Provincial Marketing Officer and Marketing Board to help the agriculturist to get a full and adequate return for his produce.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—" May I know what action has been taken by the Government of India on the representation made by the Local Government? "

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—" This Government made representation to the Government of India, but what action they have taken on it, I am not in a position to say."

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—" May I ask whether the Government have made any representations to the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway with regard to railway concessions? "

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—" I do not think that any reference has been made to Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway by this Government."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—" Apart from making representations and keeping the question under consideration, may I ask the Hon. Minister to state categorically whether anything has been definitely achieved? "

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The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—"I should like to know in what directions?"

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—"In all the directions."

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—"The answer to the question clearly says what the Government have done and what they propose to do."

Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt:—"May I know whether the port of Tranquebar is being actually used for the export of rice?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—"The port has been open for traffic but whether advantage has been taken of the facilities offered, I am not now in a position to say."

Mr. G. Lakshmana Reddi:—"May I ask whether the Local Government have received any reply to the representations they made to the Government of India?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—"With reference to what point?"

Mr. G. Lakshmana Reddi:—"With reference to all the points on which they have addressed the Government of India, such as the total prohibition of the import of rice or the imposition of prohibitive duties and so on?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—"With reference to the prohibition of the import of rice or the imposition of duties, the Local Government have not heard anything from the Government of India."

Mr. M. A. Muthiah Chettiyar:—"Are the Government aware that there has been a further fall in price recently after the arrival of a large shipment of Siam rice?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—"I have this information only from the hon. Member. I was not aware of it before."

Mr. M. A. Muthiah Chettiyar:—"Will the Government be pleased to get the necessary information from the districts and find out whether the price has not really gone down and, if so, to what extent?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—"The suggestion of the hon. Member will be considered."

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari:—"May I know whether and, if so, when the Government expect to receive a reply from the Nizam's Government? We have not had any reply although it is four months since our representation was made. May I ask whether any reminder has been sent to the Nizam's Government?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—"I am willing to consider the suggestion of the hon. Member."

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—"May I know whether the Government are aware that yesterday's papers say that a large shipment of Siam rice has arrived in Madras?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—"I am sorry, Sir, I have not looked into yesterday's papers."

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Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—" May I ask when the Local Government addressed the Government of India with regard to the total prohibition of the import of foreign rice? "

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" I am afraid I cannot give the exact date."

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari:—" May I ask whether the Madras Government have addressed the Government of India to consider the advisability of revising this old treaty of 1800 or so with the Nizam's Government? "

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" After the reply is received from the Nizam's Government, the matter will be referred to the Government of India."

Mr. C. Basu Dev:—" May I ask whether the Government have considered the advisability of sending an officer of their own to the Nizam's Government to expedite their favourable reply? "

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" I am afraid, it is not possible."

Rao Bahadur C. Natesa Mudaliyar:—" Is it a fact that if an import duty is placed on Siam rice, it will adversely affect the commercial relations between Siam and India? "

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" Possibly it might. It is a matter for the Government of India to consider."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—" May I ask when this marketing officer is likely to be appointed and when the Provincial Marketing Board is likely to be constituted? "

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" I have said that it will be done at the beginning of the next financial year."

Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari:—" What are the functions of this Marketing Board; have any rules been framed for the purpose? "

The Hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" No rules can be framed till the Board is appointed."

Measures for the prevention of the importation of foreign rice.

* 764 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state what action has been taken by the Madras Government to prevent import of foreign rice into this Province?

A.—The necessity for early action to prevent foreign imports effectively has been brought to the notice of the Government of India, and, as stated in answer to Question 278 given in November last, that Government is considering the question. The Local Government are not in a position to take any further steps in the matter.

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—" May I ask whether this Government will make further representations to the Government of India and press on them the necessity for taking immediate steps to prevent the import of foreign rice? "